

Part Time Teachers of Spanish and/or German: We are seeking an adult who is reasonably fluent in Spanish and or German to take a group of Yr 7/8 students for 2 hours a week in 2009. Some teaching experience would be essential. Please contact the School Office if you know of anybody who might be available and interested.

Year 8 Students Attending Papakura High School in 2009: There is an information evening tonight beginning at 7 pm for all parents whose children will be attending Papakura High School in 2008.

Coming Events:

Tomorrow	Interzone netball competition at Panmure
Sat 16 Aug	Netball Prizegiving in hall starting at 3.30pm
Mon 18 Aug	7.30 PTA in staffroom. All parents welcome
Tues 19 Aug	Board of Trustees meeting Counties Zone crosscountry at Paparimu School
Wed 20 Aug	Counties North Yr 5/6 cross country at Te Hihi School
Thurs 21 Aug	8.00 am Numeracy meeting for parents in Arts Room- finish by 8.45 am
Tues 26 Aug	7.00 pm School Speech finals in hall.
Thur 28 Aug	Counties Zone Gymnastics Competition field day for Yr 5-8 at Counties Gymnastics Stadium
Fri 29 Aug	Daffodil Day
Mon 1 Sept	National Monitoring programme begins for 12 Yr8 students
Fri 5 Sept	Counties Zone Gymnastics Competition at Pukekohe Teacher Appreciation Day

Travel Wise: Are you sick of traffic congestion? Be a part of the solution, not the problem. Volunteer for the walking school bus.

Quiz: What did Noah use to supervise the animals at the bottom level of his ark?

Quote: The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before they are born. *William Ralph Inge*

Best Wishes

Murray Wratt
Principal

Answer to Quiz: floodlight

OPAHEKE SCHOOL

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Newsletter No 12/08

“The Opaheke Way”

Dear Parents,
Greetings to all of the School’s families. Now is the time of the year when we can dream about holidays in Hawaii, Greek Islands or even Surfers Paradise!

Numeracy For Parents: A not to be missed occasion. Following on from many parent requests for another information session, there will be a follow up session to last years meeting. There will also be an opportunity to observe students at different levels/classes demonstrating Numeracy activities. We would urge parents to take advantage of this morning which will have a definite finishing time to allow most to get to work.
Venue: Art Room in the new block- adjacent to the library.
Start time: 8.00 am
Date: Thursday 21st August. That’s Thursday of next week.
Childcare: This will be provided through the school while the session is on. Every parent who lets us know that they will be attending, by filling in the slip sent home earlier in the week, will be given a laminated Numeracy activity/game that they can try out at home with their families.

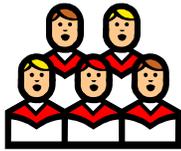
Speech Competitions: Yes parents, its that time of year again. Throughout August all students in Years 5 to 8 prepare and present a 3 minute speech on a topic of interest to them. Our School Speech final will be held in the hall starting at 7 pm on the evening of Tuesday 26th August. The winners of the two categories will go on to contest the inter school speech finals.



So What Else Is On This Term? Although it is supposed to be the ‘quiet term’ it is usually anything but that. Some of the coming ‘events’ are as follows:

- University of New South Wales tests in Mathematics
- National Education monitoring programme with 12 Year 8's in early September
- Starlab visits school in early September.
- Counties North and Counties Zone gymnastics in late August early September
- Cross Country for our Year 5/6 students at Te Hihi School.
- Multi cultural festival opportunity for the School's Kapa Haka group.
- School speech competitions as outlined earlier.
- Weather permitting, some inter school winter sports exchanges.

Making Music: Last week our senior school choir took part in the Papakura Principals' Association music festival. It was a privilege to enjoy such polished performances by about 300 students from local primary schools, including our own Opaheke choristers. A special thankyou to them and to their choir trainer Miss Bolstad. They made wonderful music.



Parent Supervision For Road Pedestrian Crossing: Geraldine Braks is still waiting on some offers of help with supervising the road patrol crossings on Opaheke Road. The crossing monitors have been told by police who trained them that they should not carry out road patrol without adult support. This means that a busy, and at times dangerous, crossing will be unsupervised. Parents your help is necessary. Please phone Geraldine on Ph 2981174. The more parents who help, the less number of times your turn will come up.

Daffodil Day: Friday 29th August is Daffodil Day: Our School Councillors will organise a coin trail to raise money for cancer research and all children are invited to contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Celebrating Successes: Congratulations to the following students:

- University of New South Wales Science results:
Credit 70-89%
Yr 8: Kyla Trudgeon; Yr 7: Andrew Cooksley, Hritika Ghaiee, Jessica Petersen, Alexander Wiggans. Yr6: Ronnie Shaddick;
Yr 5: Chhavi Breja, Samuel Earl, Navrajdeep Sandhu; Yr 4: Tione Sroga, Anqi Yang, Jessica Young.

- Counties Zone Netball Yr 7 A team 1st A Grade: Jasmine Desai, Madison LunnyCharlotte Pritchard, Rebekah Mager, Natasha Tulp, Maia Jean Watene.
- Yr 7 B team 1st B Grade: Darby Fullerton, Melanie John.
- Yr 8 A team 3rd A Grade: Destiny Grace, Katie Maihi, Adeline Shaddick, Analeea Williamson
- Yr 8 B team 2nd B Grade: Sarah Petrie
- The Yr 7 A team will now contest the interzone championships at Panmure tomorrow.
- Counties League: Shae Ah Fook, Arman Juanmiry, Alan Robinson all Yr 8, Clayton Rubin all selected to play interzone.

Mathletics: Three of our classes will be trialling an online computer based Mathematics programme later this month. We will be evaluating its value carefully as it does contain a teaching component. Originating from Australia, it has been adapted to New Zealand conditions. With a password, students from the trial classrooms will be able to enter the programme day or night at school or at home. This fortnight's trial will be at no cost. We would also appreciate any parent feedback.

Role Models: Do we have these at School? Absolutely. Our School provides numerous opportunities for students to provide leadership across the whole school or parts of the School. Some examples are:

School Councillors who lead the School assemblies on Mondays; who supervise the bus travel procedures for Yr 8's to/from Mansell Senior School; who initiate projects that will benefit all students eg native garden; senior adventure playground base matting and organise such events as the 'Opaheke's Got Talent' and Freaky Fridays.



Other examples of student responsibilities include School Library Monitors, I.T. monitors, audio visual monitors, sports team leaders, lunch monitors, banking monitors, paper recycling monitors, road patrol monitors, wet day monitors and lunchtime activities monitors for junior children. In fact, it is doubtful if the School would function effectively without these wonderful responsible young people.